

**Weekly Status & Information Report:
Week of May 15, 2006**

- 1. Affordable Housing Forum - Tuesday, May 23 (City-wide):** Please mark your calendars for the 2006 Affordable Housing Forum. The forum, cosponsored by the City of Takoma Park, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and the Washington Area Housing Trust, will be held this coming Tuesday, May 23 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. Experts from across the region will present information on a number of topics including building support for the preservation of affordable housing, land trusts, and affordable housing trust funds. A copy of the agenda is attached. (*Housing and Community Development - Please visit www.takomaparkmd.gov to view .pdf format of the Forum agenda.*)
- 2. County Council Decides Not to Assist with Gym Funding:** In approving the FY07 Budget, the Montgomery County Council did not include a grant of \$240,000 for the Takoma Park Community Center gym. The grant, proposed by Councilmember Steve Silverman, had been recommended by the Planning, Housing and Economic Development Committee for \$240,000 for FY07 and \$120,000 for FY08. The proposal was put on the Council's reconciliation list, but not chosen for inclusion in the final budget. (*Community & Government Liaison*)
- 3. Parking Lot Repair Work:** The contractors and the engineers have created a corrective plan to repair work the cracks in the parking lot. The repair work will begin on Monday, May 22, 2006. However, based upon the plan for corrective action, the work will not be completed until the week of June 5th. There will be limited parking spaces for police personnel and citizens conducting business in the Police Department. All others are requested to use the available spaces in the rear of the Community Center. Please bear with us as this work is completed. (*Construction Project Manager*)
- 4. Further Discussion Relating to a New Gymnasium the City:** On Friday, May 19th, the subsurface exploration and geotechnical engineering drilling was completed. The data will be sent to the laboratory and, upon the completion of the laboratory testing, a written report will be made available to the City Manager. (*Construction Project Manager*)
- 5. Street Restoration:** Concrete repairs continue on Spruce Avenue through Wednesday, May 24. (*Public Works*)
- 6. Metropolitan Branch Trail (Ward 1):** The Montgomery County Conservation Corps has resumed work on the Metropolitan Branch trail. They will be planting trees and other general landscaping, constructing the retaining wall and installing the fence over the next 5 weeks. The trail's pavement will be narrowed where it is currently marked with small orange lines at regular intervals. (*Housing and Community Development*)

7. Montgomery County Community Discussion on Thriving & Sustainable Communities (Wards 2, 3, 6, 5): M-NCPPC hosted a panel and discussion on the need for more smart growth tools for directing housing and commercial growth to existing commercial centers and corridors, leaving existing residential neighborhoods and protected agricultural lands intact. Issues discussed included transportation modes, affordable housing, quality of life, and inadequacy of existing development tools. Areas in the City that these discussions may affect include the Piney Branch/Flower Avenue intersection (Long Branch) and the Takoma/Langley Crossroads center and New Hampshire Avenue Corridor. Two council members, Marc Elrich and Colleen Clay, and one HCD staff person, Ilona Blanchard, attended. The next discussion will be in September. *(Housing and Community Development)*

8. Landlord Certification Seminar (City-wide): The monthly landlord certification seminar was held on Thursday, May 18 with ten local landlords and property agents in attendance, a majority of whom own or manage single family rentals. Completed evaluation forms indicate that the participants found the overall seminar to be very informative and the speakers organized and knowledgeable. The seminar is offered on a monthly basis and is staffed by Code Enforcement and Landlord Tenant personnel. *(Housing and Community Development)*

9. Dialogue on Pedestrian Safety Solutions: The City hosted a joint public meeting on Tuesday, May 16th, for the Takoma Park Safe Roadways Committee and the Montgomery County Pedestrian Safety Advisory Committee. Over 30 people participated in the event, and it is available for viewing at [www.http://takomapark.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=14](http://takomapark.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?publish_id=14). Representatives and officials presented information on current and proposed safety initiatives and answered questions from residents. *(Housing and Community Development)*

10. Takoma Park Survival Guide and Business Director (City-wide): The 2006 edition of the Survival Guide has arrived! Copies of the guide are to be distributed by volunteers this weekend. Additional copies are available at the Library and the Community Center. The guide is produced and distributed by the Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School in partnership with the City of Takoma Park. *(Housing and Community Development)*

11. Quarterly Tree Removal/Tree Protection Plan permit numbers - January 1, 2006 - March 31, 2006: *(Please visit www.takomaparkmd.gov to view .pdf format of the City Arborist's report.)*

12. Grant for Rooms: The Takoma Foundation announced its approval of a grant to fund the rooms included in Phase 2 of the Community Center construction. Due to the generous award, the teen lounge, game room and dance room will be furnished with equipment and amusements designed to attract kids of all ages. Their efforts will be appreciated by many for years to come. *(Recreation)*

13. **Open Reading - Poetry Series (City-wide):** The first open reading of the Arts and Humanities Commission was held on Thursday, May 18. Organized by Poet Laureate Don Berger, the event was well attended with over thirty people being given an opportunity to hear the work of fourteen local poets. The next reading in the series is scheduled for Thursday, June 8 and will feature the poetry of Anne Dykers and Alan Rubenstein. *(Housing and Community Development)*

14. **The City Web Site:** The City web site was down from mid-day Sunday May 15 until about noon on Monday May 16. This was due to a problem at the server-farm used by our web hosting company. Although the site was inaccessible during this time, no data were lost. *(City TV)*

15. **Azalea Awards:** City TV crews covered the Azalea Awards on Saturday, May 13 and the Pedestrian Safety Dialogue on Tuesday May 16. Both of these events will be replayed over the next few months, and are also available on the web site as a video archive. *(City TV)*

16. **National Charrette Institute Staff Training:** David Suls, Associate Planner, received training last week and was certified to plan and facilitate charrettes. Economic and community development now has two NCI certified charrette planners and two NCI certified facilitators. *(Housing and Community Development)*

17. **The Afternoon Addition:** The Afternoon Addition invited Ellouise Schoettler a storyteller with an extensive background, to delight the group with animal stories. The kids enjoyed her so much we have invited her back for another story time. *(Recreation)*

18. **Mad Science:** Mad Science came to visit the Afternoon Addition on April 28 and May 5, impressing the children with the amusements of science. This program is scheduled periodically to provide an enrichment component to the after school program. *(Recreation)*

City of Takoma Park
Washington Area Housing Partnership

Affordable Housing Workshop

Tuesday, May 23, 2006

7:00 pm

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

Welcome & Introductions

Mayor Kathryn H. Porter
City Manager Barbara B. Matthews

Overview

David Robertson, Executive Director
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Washington Area Housing Partnership

Dara Dann
Washington Area Housing Partnership

The Washington Area Housing Partnership (WAHP) is a regional public-private housing partnership that acts as a catalyst to preserve and expand the supply of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families in the Washington region. During 2005, the Partnership developed a “Toolkit for Affordable Housing Development” containing successful policies and planning tools to preserve and promote the supply of affordable housing in the region. Ms. Dann will describe the Partnership, the Toolkit, and the Partnership’s outreach efforts in the form of local workshops in the metropolitan Washington region.

Building Community Support for Preservation

Michael Bodaken, President
National Housing Trust

The first step in resolving our neighborhood and housing dilemmas is holding on to what we have already built. Mr. Bodaken will share best practices of how the National Housing Trust has helped tenant and nonprofit groups save existing affordable housing.

Land Trust Presentation

Robert Boulter, President
Faithworks

Mr. Boulter will give a presentation on the Land Trust Model and how it works; including the benefits this model has for building equity, providing long term affordable housing, and preserving affordable housing in communities. He will also address the benefits and concerns of a local government and nonprofit partnership and give insight into how other governments have structured successful partnerships.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Peggy Sand, President
Washington Area Housing Trust Fund

Ms. Sand will provide an overview of Washington Area Housing Trust Fund (WAHTF). She will discuss how WAHTF complements and does not compete with local housing trust funds throughout the region. Ms. Sand will also share how Takoma Park can benefit from both the WAHTF and Montgomery County's trust fund.

Question & Answer Session

The question and answer session will be open up to the Council Members first. Then, advocates and residents in the community will follow with questions for the panel.

Mayor Kathryn H. Porter
Mayor Pro Tem Bruce R. Williams
Council Member Joy Austin-Lane
Council Member Doug Barry
Council Member Colleen Clay
Council Member Marc Elrich
Council Member Terry J. Seamens

Next Steps & Action Items**Adjournment**

Quarterly Tree Removal/Tree Protection Plan permit numbers: January 1, 2006 - March 31, 2006	
Applications Received	41
Permits Granted (# of Trees)	29
Waivers Granted (# of Trees)	26
Emergency Waivers Granted (# of Trees)	9
Denials (# of Trees)	6
Tree Protection Plans	10

(City Arborist)